

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Currently Amended) A vehicle fuel tank supporting structure supporting a plurality of parallel adjacent fuel tanks, the supporting structure comprising:

a first fuel tank support supporting a first fuel tank of the plurality of parallel fuel tanks, the first fuel tank having a first axial center a first height above a floor of the vehicle;

a second fuel tank support supporting a second fuel tank of the plurality of parallel fuel tanks, the second fuel tank having a second axial center a second height above the floor of the vehicle, the second height being lower than the first height, the second fuel tank support having a length and a first transverse width, with one portion along the length defining a weakened portion having a second transverse width shorter than the first transverse width; and

a longitudinal movement stopping device, stopping a longitudinal movement by the first fuel tank, and redirecting the longitudinal movement of the first fuel tank to apply a downward biasing force to the second fuel tank, thereby moving the second fuel tank in a downward direction toward the vehicle floor;

wherein the weakened portion is configured to break when the downward biasing force applied to the second fuel tank is equal to or greater than a predetermined value;
and

wherein the longitudinal movement stopping device is positioned at a third height above the floor of the vehicle, the third height being higher than the first height.

3-6. (Cancelled)

7. (Previously Presented) The fuel tank supporting structure of claim 2, wherein the first and second fuel tank supports are positioned such that fuel can be successively used initially from the first fuel tank and subsequently from the second fuel tank.

8. (Previously Presented) The fuel tank supporting structure of claim 2, further comprising vehicle body left and right rockers, wherein between the rockers, the fuel tanks are disposed respectively extending in a vehicle transverse direction.

9. (Previously Presented) The fuel tank supporting structure of claim 2, further comprising falling-out preventing structure preventing the fuel tank from completely falling to the floor of the vehicle body.

10. (Previously Presented) The fuel tank supporting structure of claim 9, wherein the falling-out preventing structure includes a sub frame disposed so as to be separated from the fuel tank toward a lower side of the fuel tank, and when the second fuel tank moves downward, the sub frame catches on the fuel tank, preventing the fuel tank from falling to the floor.

11. (Previously Presented) The fuel tank supporting structure of claim 10, wherein the sub frame includes at least two cross rails which are disposed at the lower side of the fuel tank so as to respectively extend in a vehicle transverse direction, and a vehicle longitudinal direction dimension between the cross rails is smaller than a diameter of the fuel tank.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Previously Presented) The fuel tank supporting system of claim 2, further comprising a third fuel tank support supporting a third fuel tank having a third axial center.

14. (Previously Presented) The fuel tank supporting system of claim 2, wherein the longitudinal movement of the first fuel tank is caused by a vehicle collision.

15. (Previously Presented) The fuel tank supporting system of claim 2, wherein the first and second fuel tank supports are positioned such that fuel can be successively used initially from one of the first and second fuel tanks, and subsequently from the other of the first and second fuel tanks.

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Previously Presented) The fuel tank supporting system of claim 9, wherein the falling-out preventing structure comprises first and second cross rails supporting the second fuel tank support, the first and second cross rails positioned to abut against and support the second fuel tank upon breakage of the second fuel tank support and movement of the second fuel tank a predetermined distance toward the vehicle floor.